

Monroe County's Ellison Park

Trail Information

Coyote Den Trail

This trail is an easy to moderate 1.1 mile walk (one way) that follows a gradual uphill climb to Penfield Road. Near the Blossom Road trailhead there is a secluded spring pond. In spring look for birds such as wood ducks, green herons and great blue herons. Listen for the variety of frogs and toads that breed there. A larger pond along Blossom Road has water all year. Can you see herons and bullfrogs?

The area behind South Lodge is great for spring wildflowers and ferns. Behind Spruce shelter the trail follows a beautiful wooded path in a gully, alongside a creek. The tulip, maple, oak, beech, American hornbeam (the trunks look like gray sinewy muscles) and sassafras trees make this an outstanding fall hike.

The wooden bridges, corduroy log paths, moss-covered logs, and sunlight filtering through the trees and ferns give this trail a feeling of wilderness. In late summer there are sunny areas filled with wildflowers - look for butterflies. Turkeys and owls have also been heard and spotted in this area. At one time there was an active coyote den.

Overlook Loop Trail

This is a moderate to difficult 0.6 mile trail with one very steep section where the trail joins Coyote Den Trail near Irondequoit Creek. You can look uphill here at the steep section to determine how you make the loop, climbing uphill or downhill.

On the portion of the trail that follows the Coyote Den Trail, you will be following a creek in a beautiful wooded gully with moss-covered logs, ferns, and wooden bridges. The trail has a canopy of tulip, maple, oak, sassafras, American hornbeam and beech trees, which makes this a colorful fall hike. Look for seasonal wildflowers.

At the top of the hill there is an overlook (just off the loop) that looks down on Thomas Cove and the stone quarry. The quarry is private property.

Mill Race Trail

This trail is an easy 0.4 mile walk over level terrain. The trail passes through several wetland areas and shows the various stages of succession from marsh to climax forest. See if you can see these various wetland stages as you walk this trail. Look for alder, oak, sassafras, maples, and American hornbeam trees (the trunks look like gray sinewy muscles). In the wet areas listen for frogs and look for seasonal wildflowers, ferns and horsetail scouring rushes.

The trail ends near Blossom Road. Across Blossom Road is the Daisy Flour Mill restaurant. This is an original 1872 flour mill left from the milling era along the raceway.

Indian Landing Trail

This trail is an easy 1.5 mile walk over level terrain. Ellison Park is Monroe County's first park. This trail is an outstanding step back in time into the history of this land we now call Ellison Park. On a hill on the eastern portion of the trail is the presumed site of Peter Schuyler's 1721 Trading Post, known as "Fort Schuyler". Its purpose was to encourage trade with the Senecas and compete with the French for furs. In 1938 this log cabin (modeled after plans of an 18th century blockhouse) was erected to commemorate this site.

A plaque placed on a large boulder along Irondequoit Creek commemorates a nearby location of the "Indian Landing" which was used for many years by the indigenous Iroquois as the start of the portage route, which led from Lake Ontario, up Irondequoit Creek, and overland to the Genesee River.

The northern portion of the trail is a wooded path of spruce, maple, birch, hemlock, and beech trees. Just east of the path is the presumed site of the famous Butlers' Rangers hideout and site of a 1674 French chapel (see Butler's Gap trail notes). Then the trail follows an old mill raceway. The Daisy Flour Mill just across Blossom Road is one of those original mills. It operated from 1846 to 1972 and is now a restaurant.

The southern portion of the trail follows Irondequoit Creek through a wetland area. In the past, beaver and muskrat were active in this area. Look for summer wildflowers and in spring listen for various frogs and toads.

The southwestern portion of the trail follows Irondequoit Creek. In this area was the town of Tryon also known as "The Lost City of Tryon". This city, founded in 1797, was one of the first attempts to establish a permanent settlement in what is now Monroe County.

Butler's Gap Trail

This trail is a moderate 0.7 mile (one way) walk over rolling terrain with one short but steep climb. The trail begins at the rock commemorating the Indian Landing site. After you cross the grassy field you enter a wooded gap nestled between two hills. In mid-July, it is filled with jewelweed (or "touch me not") wildflowers and ferns. See if you can find the plaque that reads "Site of Butler's Rangers Lookout Point Circa 1770" in the gap. Butler's Rangers was a military force loyal to King George. Although the Rangers were headquartered at Niagara, it is believed they camped along the ridge in this area called Butler's Gap. It is believed this area was also the site of Father Hennipin's Chapel in 1674.

The trail comes to a T-intersection, overlooking a wetland. This is a great place to look and listen for wildlife. The trail then makes a short but steep climb to follow a wooded ridge that is beautiful in the fall. Return on the trail the way you came.

If you have rented a Lodge...

Go to the Lodge you have rented. The doors will be unlocked one hour prior to the arrival time printed on your reservations permit.

If you have rented a Shelter...

A park guard will stop by to check your permit.

Ellison Park Hours and Rules

Ellison Park is open everyday from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. The shelters and lodges are reserved by calling 256-4951 and are available from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. daily. Our County Parks are **Carry-In Carry-Out**. Please take all garbage with you to dispose of after you leave. Keg Beer is permitted if stamped on your rental permit. Recreation fields are available on a first come / first serve basis if the fields are not in league use. **Pets must be leashed. Bicycles are not allowed on trails.**

Trails are multiple use, unless noted otherwise. Enjoy walking, running, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Please be aware of seasonal changes in trail conditions and be prepared for natural environment such as mosquitoes and poison ivy in some areas.



Jack Doyle
County Executive

MONROE COUNTY'S ELLISON PARK

